FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rep. John Nygren

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## Representative Nygren Applauds Release of "A Dose of Reality" DOJ Announces New Campaign to Combat Prescription Opiate Abuse and Addiction

Milwaukee – Today, Representative John Nygren (R- Marinette) joined Attorney General Brad Schimel, Department of Health Services Secretary Kitty Rhoades, Dr. Andy Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Aurora Health Care, and Dr. Brian Peterson, Milwaukee County Medical Examiner, president-elect Medical Society of Milwaukee County, for the release of the Department of Justice's new campaign called "A Dose of Reality." This campaign is a statewide effort aimed at combating prescription opiate abuse and addiction. After the initial reveal of the campaign in Milwaukee, Rep. Nygren released the following statement:

"I applaud Attorney General Schimel and the Department of Justice (DOJ) for their commitment to fighting prescription drug abuse and addiction in Wisconsin. Our state is currently struggling with a heroin and opiate epidemic, and it's important that we continue to spread awareness about the devastating effects these drugs have when they are abused. The department's "Dose of Reality" campaign will do exactly that.

"Many people aren't aware that, in many cases, heroin addiction begins with an addiction to prescription medications. Whether these medications are obtained legally or not, we need to do our best to curtail the illegal use of these dangerous substances.

"'A Dose of Reality' is a great complement to my Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda – a package of legislation that works to combat heroin and opiate addiction in our state. I look forward to continuing to work with the Attorney General, medical community, law enforcement, my colleagues in the legislature, and all of the advocates who do so much to help support those affected by addiction."

For more information on Rep. Nygren's HOPE Agenda, click <u>here</u>.

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